

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for describing a problem in a network comprising a number of network entities, the method comprising:

selecting a subset of alarms associated with a service, said service having a unique identifier and being carried by a path in the network, ~~said path having a forward direction from the beginning of the path to the end of the path, and a return direction from the end of the path to the beginning of the path, said network including a number of network entities,~~ the subset of alarms being selected from a list of alarms in the network;

grouping alarms in the selected subset of alarms associated with said service in a number of groups of alarms, each group of alarms being associated with said service and with a network entity;

arranging the groups of alarms according to a sequence in which they appear in a traversal of ~~one of the forward direction and return direction of the path of the service in the network; and~~

transforming each alarm in each group of ~~the selected subset of alarms~~ into a problem description for the service.

2. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a corrective procedure in response to at least one alarm in said for one of the some and all alarms from the groups of the selected subset of alarms.

3. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, wherein said grouping further associates each group of alarms with a type of said network entity, where a type of said network entity is one of the network entities carrying the service comprise one or more of the following physical location types: a node, a bay, a quadrant, a slot, a card and a port.

4. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the step of grouping the selected subset of alarms comprises grouping the selected subset of alarms by associating each alarm in the subset of alarms with one of the network entities carrying the service.

5. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the step of grouping the selected subset of alarms comprises grouping the selected subset of alarms by one or more of the associating at least one alarm in the subset of alarms with at least two of network entities carrying the service.

6. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, for describing a problem in a network comprising a number of network entities, the method comprising:

selecting a subset of alarms associated with a service, said service having a unique identifier and being carried by a path in the network, the subset of alarms being selected from a list of alarms in the network;

grouping alarms in the subset of alarms associated with said service in a number of groups of alarms, each group of alarms being associated with said service and with a network entity;

arranging the groups of alarms according to a sequence in which they appear in a traversal of the path of the service in the network; and

transforming each alarm in each group of alarms into a problem description for the service;

wherein the step of transforming each alarm further comprises the step of forming one or more templates a at least one template including text substitution markers.

7. (Original) A method as described in claim 6, wherein the text substitution markers correspond to network entities.

8. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 4, [6] wherein said path is a two-way path and the step of arranging the groups of alarms comprises arranging the groups of alarms in the forward [a] direction of the path from a beginning of the path to an end of the path.

9. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 4, [6] wherein said path is a two-way path and the step of arranging the groups of alarms comprises arranging the groups of alarms in the return- [a] direction of the path from an end of the path to a beginning of the path.

10. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, for describing a problem in a network comprising a number of network entities, the method comprising:

selecting a subset of alarms associated with a service, said service having a unique identifier and being carried by a path in the network, the subset of alarms being selected from a list of alarms in the network;

grouping the subset of alarms associated with said service in a number of groups of alarms, each group of alarms being associated with said service and with a network entity;

arranging the groups of alarms according to a sequence in which they appear in a traversal of the path of the service in the network; and

transforming each alarm in each group of alarms into a problem description for the service;

wherein the type of said problem comprises one or more of the following types of problems: triggers at least one of:

a missing channel identification alarm;

an unexpected channel identification alarm;

a loss of signal alarm; and

a channel power out of range alarm.

11. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the description is a verbal description.
12. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 11, wherein the description is ~~an English~~ a text description.
13. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the description is a pictorial description